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SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Hon. Minister has been pleased to state that the consumer's price of rice has been fixed once and for all for the whole State. Can he give the assurance that there will not be any further increase in the price of rice sold in ration shops? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It all depends upon the price of imported rice. If there is no further increase in the price of imported rice, I would not increase it. If there is a decrease, I may be able to decrease it."

*Alienation of poramboke lands at Kavanur, Vridhachalam taluk.*

* 318 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any application for the alienation of poramboke lands from the Manager, Basic School at Kavanur, Vridhachalam taluk, and if so, the action taken thereon; and

(*b*) whether in the matter of assignment poramboke lands, the Government give preferential treatment to the requirements of public purposes over the needs of the landless poor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes. The Government have seen no grounds to comply with the request of the Manager of the School in his application.

" (*b*) The Government have not laid down as a rule that when an institution applies for a land as being required for a public purpose and a landless poor person also applies for it, the former should be given preference over the latter. Each case is dealt with on its merits."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, what are the recommendations of the Collector in this matter and whether the Government have concurred with or differed from the views of the Collector? If the Government have deviated from the views of the Collector, what is the reason therefor? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Not only the Collector but also the Director of Public Instruction made a report. The land in question is eminently fit for wet cultivation. It is away from the school and it was given to a sivoijamadar of 30 years' standing for 2½ times market value. The Director of Public Instruction was definitely against giving this land to the school."

10-40 a.m. SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In the cause and interest of basic education, is it not necessary that the Government should have given preference to the school authorities rather than alienating the land to some Congressman? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As the Minister for Education I went through that file. I found; the land was absolutely unnecessary for the school authorities and also the land could not be useful for the purpose which the school authorities asked for."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Was not this question already dealt with, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" It might have been dealt with."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think, during the general discussion on the Budget, this subject came and was dealt with."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know to whom this land was alienated and on what grounds? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The land was given at 2½ times market value to a sivoijamadar who had been cultivating it for the last thirty years."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இந்தக் காவனூர் ஆதாரப் பாடசாலையின் மானேஜர் எந்தக் காரணத்திற்காக அந்த நிலத்தைக் கேட்டார்? எவ்வளவு நிலம் கேட்டார்? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The school authorities asked for the land. The extent of the land is about four acres. The land is situated adjacent to the school."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Merely going through files is not enough. The school authorities who are the authorities in this matter considered that the land was necessary for the school. Surely, they would have taken into consideration all relevant facts. Further, the M.L.A. representing that locality is also of the opinion that the land was absolutely necessary for the school. With due deference to the wishes of these people, will the Government at least now compulsorily acquire the land and offer the same to the school authorities? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I suppose the hon. Member concedes that the Director of Public Instruction is also the highest school authority. May I inform the hon. Member that he was definitely against the land being alienated in favour of the school authorities."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்த நிலம் இப்பொழுது யாருக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதோ அவருக்கு எவ்வளவு நிலம் முன்பே இருக்கிறது? அவர் நிலமில்லாத ஏழை விவசாயியா? அல்லது ஒரு பெரிய பணக்காரரா, மிராசுதாரா என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There were contradictory reports about that. One report said he was a landless man. (Sri K. Vinayakam : What do Government say about it?) The state of affairs seems to be that no land is in his name but that some of his relatives are in possession of some lands."

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SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" அந்த நிலத்தை அவர் மார்க்கெட் விலை கொடுத்து வாங்கியிருப்பதாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். மார்க்கெட் விலை கொடுத்து வாங்க பணவசதி இருக்கக்கூடிய ஒருவருக்கு ஏன் இந்த நிலத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்? நிலமில்லாதவர்களுக்கு ஏன் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது? சர்க்காருடைய கொள்கை இவ் விஷயத்தில் என்னவென்று கேட்கிறேன்?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member conveniently forgets that the concerned person is a sivoijamadar who has been cultivating the land for thirty years and has made improvements in the land. The hon. Member should remember that he himself had vehemently pleaded on a previous occasion that these kind of people should be given the land in preference to others."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" The Hon. Minister for Revenue is repeatedly saying that the Director of Public Instruction has stood against the alienation of the land in favour of the school. The Hon. the Minister for Finance says that he has gone into the files and had found that the land was not at all recommended for the school. The Hon. the Revenue Minister has offered the land to a sivoijamadar. May I boldly ask the Hon. the Minister for Education, whether it is not a fact that the Deputy Inspector of Schools and the District Educational Officer have both recommended the alienation of the land in favour of the school and that it is only the Divisional Inspector of Schools being influenced by the said influential sivoijamadar, has written against the alienation of the land in favour of the school? Is not what I had stated a fact?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I may boldly answer that the opinions of the subordinate officials do not prevail as against the opinion of the highest authority, I mean, the Director of Public Instruction."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" இந்தக் குறிப்பிட்ட நிலத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கோரி தனக்கோ தனது குடும்பத்தாருக்கோ நிலமில்லாத ஏழைகள் யாராவது மனுச் செய்திருந்தார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is a very lively faction in that village. The whole trouble is due to that."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த ஆதாரப் பள்ளி மானேஜர் இதற்கு முன்பு இதே நிலத்தைத் தனக்குத் தியாகி என்ற முறையில் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டு சர்க்காரால் கொடுக்க முடியாது என்று மறுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I commend this question to the other hon. Members who had put some other questions."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" On a point of Order, Sir. This question is an important question and has drawn the attention of the entire district of South Arcot. There are so many things which we have to express. So I request that a half-hour debate may please be allowed for this question."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member should realize that we have got so many Demands to cover."

*Utilization of the Handloom Cess Fund.*

* 319 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state how the amount received from the Handloom Cess Fund is proposed to be utilized?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The answer [a] is placed on the table of the House."

* 320 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount allotted by the Union Government for Madras State from the Textile Cess Fund; and

(*b*) how the Government propose to spend the amount?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 319 (starred) by Sri N. K. Palanisami, M.L.A."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" Carpet, woollen goods ஆகிய இவைகளுக்கும் உதவி செய்ய இந்த கைத்தறி செஸ் நிதியில் ஏன் பணம் ஒதுக்கவில்லை?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" At present, this fund is meant for cloth made out of cotton yarn. The question of woolen, silk and silk-yarn products will have to be considered separately."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Government have come to final conclusions regarding how to spend a portion of this fund in Malabar? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No, Sir. The question is being examined."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" My question No. 320 has not been answered."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has answered both the questions Nos. 319 and 320."

*Recommendations of the Government to the Backward Classes Commission.*

* 321 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon the Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to lay a copy of the recommendations of this State Government to the Backward Classes Commission appointed recently by the President under Article 340 (1) of the Constitution of India on the table of the House?

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 903–904 infra.